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NEWS.

DR. J. P. LOTSY has been appointed reader in botany in the University of Leiden.

DR. W. A. MURRILL has been appointed assistant curator at the New York Botanical Garden.

PROFESSOR G. BONNIER has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Microscopical Society of London.

DR. K. LINSBAUER has become *privat-docent* for anatomy and physiology of plants in the University of Vienna.

PROFESSOR P. A. SACCARDO has been elected a corresponding member of the Reale Accademia dei Lincei of Rome.

B. M. EVERHART, known best through work in systematic mycology done in association with Mr. J. B. ELLIS, died at West Chester, Pa., on September 22, at the age of eighty-seven years.

THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY of Sciences at Vienna granted 4,000 kroner to Hofrat Professor JULIUS WIESNER for his journey to the Yellowstone National Park, where he expected to study the light relations of the flora. Unfortunately illness seriously interfered with his plans, and he had not fully recovered at the time of the Congress at St. Louis. Professor WIESNER delivered his address, however, in spite of evident weakness.

THOMAS H. KEARNEY, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, has been authorized to proceed to North Africa and other Mediterranean coast regions for the purpose of securing new seeds and plants adapted to the southwest. A special study will be made of the date, and new introductions of this fruit will be undertaken. Alkali-resistant forage crops will also be studied and the introduction of seeds of new and promising kinds will be made. Mr. Kearney will remain abroad until next spring.—*Science*.

A SECTION of biogeography was organized in connection with the Eighth International Geographic Congress, which met in Washington, September 8-10. Professors HEILPRIN and HARSHBERGER, both of Philadelphia, acted respectively as chairman and secretary. The papers of botanical interest were as follows: OSCAR DRUDE, *Die Methode der pflanzengeographischen Kartographie, erläutert an der Flora von Sachsen*, and *Nomenklatur pflanzengeographische Formationen*; J. W. HARSHBERGER, *Method of determining the age of the different floristic elements in the eastern United States*; CHARLES C. ADAMS, *The dispersal centers of North American biota*; H. C. COWLES, *The remarkable colony of northern plants along the Apalachicola River, Florida, and its significance*; DAVID WHITE, *The*

American range of the Cycadofilices. A paper entitled *The importance of the physiographic standpoint in plant geography*, by H. C. COWLES, was read by title. It was greatly regretted that Prof. FLAHAULT, who was to have read a paper entitled *La cartographie de géographie botanique*, was detained in France by illness. The biogeographical sessions were well attended, although there were few visiting botanists present, and the papers excited lively discussions.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of Arts and Science held at St. Louis, September 19–26, secured the attendance of large numbers of scientific men, both American and foreign. It is safe to say that no more distinguished body of scholars has ever been gathered on this continent, or probably on any other. The formal addresses by botanists were as follows: JOHN MERLE COULTER, University of Chicago, *Development of morphological conceptions*; HUGO DE VRIES, University of Amsterdam, *Fundamental conceptions of evolution*; FREDERICK O. BOWER, University of Glasgow, *The relation of the axis to the leaf in vascular plants*; KARL F. GOEBEL, University of Munich, *Die Grundprobleme der heutigen Pflanzenmorphologie*; JULIUS WIESNER, University of Vienna, *Die Entwicklung der Pflanzenphysiologie unter dem Einflusse anderer Wissenschaften*; BENJAMIN M. DUGGAR, University of Missouri, *Present problems of plant physiology*; JOSEPH C. ARTHUR, Purdue University, *The history and scope of plant pathology*; MERTON B. WAITE, U. S. Department of Agriculture, *Vegetable pathology as an economic science*; OSKAR DRUDE, Royal Technical College, Dresden, *Die Stellung der Oekologie in der heutigen Wissenschaft*; BENJAMIN L. ROBINSON, Harvard University, *Problems in ecology*. These addresses will be published in the volumes of *Proceedings* of the Congress. Short (ten-minute) papers were read by J. M. COULTER, *Morphology of Torreya taxifolia*; J. A. HARRIS, *The importance of the investigation of seedling stages*; C. E. BESSEY, *Distribution of trees in Nebraska*.

THE MARINE STATION of the University of Washington has completed a successful summer's work among the San Juan islands in the northern part of Puget Sound. The object of the work was to determine the marine life of the Sound among the islands, and to begin the study of the distribution of species on the sea bottom from the ecological point of view. The station was in charge of Professor TREVOR KINCAID (zoology) and Dr. T. C. FRYE (botany). The party included the majority of the teachers of biology in the colleges, normal schools, and large high schools of the state, as well as a number from adjacent ones. Headquarters were established at Friday Harbor, where house room was secured for laboratories, storeroom, etc., while the party lived in tents pitched in the dense coniferous forests on the shore. The party had at its disposal a naphtha launch, and a scow fitted with wire cable, windlass, dredges, and nets, by means of which the bottom in the straits and inlets among the islands was pretty well explored. Carrying their camping utensils with them in the launch, the party was enabled to make trips from headquarters extending over several days and thus cover a large area. Large collections were made of algae, shells, and hydroids, and valuable data were secured concerning their distribution. Professor CUTTING, of the State

University of Iowa, took charge of the hydroids collected. The University of Washington is endeavoring to locate the richest field in the Sound for the purpose of establishing a permanent marine station. The site has not yet been definitely located, but it is expected that one will be determined upon before spring.

THE MEETING of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held this year at Cambridge, August 17-24, was attended by an unusually large number of British botanists and by many foreign botanists as guests.

The president of the botanical section, FRANCIS DARWIN, discussed, critically and sympathetically, the hydrostatic and the statolith theories regarding the perception of gravity by plants, expressing the conviction that, at the present time at least, the latter theory has most in its favor, but admitting that it is not yet proved. About sixty papers were presented, representing the whole field of botanical study. A group of papers on paleobotany showed the extent and the fruitfulness of this line of investigation in England. Many of these papers were illustrated by lantern slides, often of great beauty, and always interesting. The group of papers by the ecologists showed by the careful anatomical and experimental investigations, coupled with examinations of soil, drainage, and meteorological conditions, that the thoroughness and accuracy which alone can give ecology any real value are recognized and applied in England and Scotland. There were also papers on mycology, morphology and cytology, anatomy, and physiology. One of the pleasantest features of this meeting was the dinner of the botanists, about seventy, in St. John's College. The speeches by DARWIN, ENGLER, CHODAT, FUJII, SEWARD, and WAGER were felicitous, and the cordial reception accorded to FUJII, of Tokyo, was especially interesting at this time. As one of the guests of the Association, I cannot refrain from expressing my grateful appreciation of the gracious courtesy and hospitality which were extended to all.—G. J. PEIRCE.